

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dodge City Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Old Carnegie Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner, Second and Spruce

CITY, TOWN

Dodge City

VICINITY OF
CODENOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 1 Keith Sebelius

STATE

Kansas

67801

20

COUNTY

Ford

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert Ervin, III

STREET & NUMBER

2209 Crescent

CITY, TOWN

Dodge City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 67801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Ford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Dodge City

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

August 10, 1970

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Department, Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Dodge City

STATE

Kansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT

___ GOOD

☒ FAIR

___ DETERIORATED

___ RUINS

___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

___ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Carnegie Library building in Dodge City, Kansas, commands the intersection of Spruce and Second Avenue from the northwest corner. Shallow one-story pedimented pavilions pivot to west and north around a two-story drum that is crowned by a shallow tiered dome. The main entrance, which is set into the curved walls of the drum, faces diagonally onto the intersection. A rectangular one-story WPA addition extends to the west.

The building is set on a raised concrete basement. The walls are brick, the second story of the drum and the clerestory of the dome are faced with pressed metal, the cornices are wooden and the roofs are sheathed with standing seam metal. The windows are regularly disposed throughout the building, and are generally of double hung, one-over-one design, with the upper lights set with stained glass. The rectangular single light windows of the clerestory and drum are entirely of stained glass. Except in the upper story and clerestory of the drum, lintels and sills are concrete. The pediments of the shallow pavilions contain insets of decorative metalwork and the metal frieze on the drum also displays a decorative treatment. Stubby finials crown the pavilions and the hip roof of the WPA addition.

The integrity of the building is generally quite good. Alterations have been made to the southeast and southwest entrances, one of the entrance capitals has been removed, the second story walls of the drum have been painted a different color from the original, the frieze over the main entrance has been changed to accommodate modern signage, and various features of the interior have been remodelled with changes in usage (presently a club).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

C.W. Squires

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Carnegie Library building in Dodge City is both a significant example in Dodge City of architectural currents that prevailed in America during the early 20th century, and an important remnant in Kansas of Andrew Carnegie's single-handed effort to promote cultural enrichment in American communities of all sizes by the endowment of free public library facilities.

In 1905, Dr. C.A. Milton, Judge E.H. Madison, L.J. Pettijohns, and other Dodge City citizens first discussed the idea of providing the town with a public library building. With the encouragement of the women's club, Judge Madison wrote Andrew Carnegie to find out if the philanthropist would endow Dodge City with the funds to construct an appropriate facility. Carnegie obliged by awarding the library board \$7500 for the new building.

The philanthropist had commenced providing construction funds for public libraries in 1881. Demonstrating characteristic shrewdness, he required that the community provide a building site and appropriate annually at least 10% of the amount of the gift to maintain the facility once it was constructed. Already by 1905 Carnegie had provided 12 libraries to Kansas communities, the first being to Leavenworth in 1900. In 1905, when he agreed to provide Dodge City with a library facility, he also was providing libraries for five other Kansas communities.

Construction of the building commenced in 1906. C.W. Squires (1851-1934) of Emporia was the architect for the project. William Foley was the contractor with W.B. Rhoads performing the cement work, Sturgeon Brothers providing the brick, and Tieffenbach Brothers in charge of interior decoration. Shelving, file cabinets and tables were obtained from Art Metal Construction Company, Jamestown, New York. An active fundraising campaign to secure the necessary \$750 for operation of the library was also launched. (One article in the Dodge City Journal-Democrat noted in this connection that the city granted a merry-go-round operation the right to run at the park if it would donate 25% of the profits to the library fund.) Donations of books and other materials were also actively solicited.

The library opened on February 1, 1907 and continued to serve the community from this location until 1970.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE KANSAS	
COUNTY FORD	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance

In 1936, a WPA project resulted in the provision of a one-story brick wing to the west for children's books.

The library building was designed in a manner generally termed by contemporary architectural observers the "Free Style" or "Free Eclectic Style." In particular, the design of the Carnegie Library building evidences the inclination of American designers at the turn of the century to utilize classical detailing and traditionally classical building forms as points of formal departure. But as the term "Free Style" implies, stylistic references serving as the basis of the design scheme could be freely interpreted so as to accommodate other aesthetic propensities and/or important practical requirements. At the library, this flexibility is evidenced by the survival of later 19th century tastes in the treatment of the window and in the overall orchestration of colors and textures.

The careful siting of the building also relates to turn-of-the-century design preoccupations. Not only is there demonstrated here a traditional American respect for, and desire to capitalize on, corner sites of the street grid, but also the influence of American beaux-arts planning with its interest in using public buildings as focal points within the urban environment. Even today, in the presence of larger commercial structures, this modestly-scaled structure visually commands the street intersection where it is located.

The fact that the Dodge City Carnegie Library embraced the particular aesthetic propensities of the period which it did was no mistake. The great ideal of the American beaux-arts approach, as first comprehensively articulated at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, was civic elevation through ceremoniously arranged, classically inspired, public architecture. Andrew Carnegie's purpose in providing American communities with public libraries at this time was to contribute to civic elevation through cultural enrichment. The Dodge City library, then, was a tangible expression of civic mindedness, with the architecture giving appropriate form to the idealistic purpose of the institution. Like the beaux-arts design movement, Carnegie's extensive library philanthropy (finally amounting to \$56 million for 2,509 public libraries) was an impressive and successful attempt to affect American life on a broad scale.

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9. Bibliography

Anderson, Florence, Carnegie Corporation Library Program, 1911-1961
(Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York, 1963), pp. 3-5, 41, 42.

"C.W. Squires Is Dead," Emporia Gazette, December 26, 1934.

Dodge City Journal-Democrat, October 6, 1905--March, 1907; January,
1936--July, 1936.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), p. 860.

Trauer, Nancy, "History of the Dodge City Public Library." (Manuscript
based on Dodge City city commission meetings, 1978).

Vawter, Ora, "History of Dodge City Library." (Manuscript filed at
Dodge City Public Library, 1941).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 4 4 1 0 2 4 0 4 1 7 8 8 8 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

2-19-79

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth

TELEPHONE

913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

2-19-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER